

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00367 081651Z

54

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0367

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JULY 8 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. AT THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON JULY 8, CHAIRED BY POLISH REP (DABROWA), UK REP (ROSE) WAS THE ONLY SPEAKER. HIS PRESENTATION REVIEWED THE BASIC REALITIES OF THE EXISTING, UNSATISFACTORY SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND CONTRASTED THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WITH THE EQUITABLE AND PRACTICAL WAYS IN WHICH THE WEST PROPOSED TO TAKE THOSE REALITIES INTO ACCOUNT IN AN AGREEMENT. THE MAIN POINTS OF ROSE'S STATEMENT WERE:

A. EASTERN PORPOSALS FAIL TO ADDRESS ADEQUATELY THE EXISTING, UNSATISFACTORY SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00367 081651Z

B. THAT SITUATION IS MARKED BY SERIOUS, POTENTIALLY

DESTABILIZING IMBALANCES IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND MAIN BATTLE TANKS FAVORING THE EAST.

C. THESE ARE NOT ARTIFICIAL CONCEPTS ADVANCED TO SUPPORT A PARTICULAR APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS, BUT FACTS WITH WHICH ANY AGREEMENT MUST EFFECTIVELY DEAL.

D. IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT GEOGRAPHY CONFERS A FURTHER, AND ENDURING ADVANTAGE ON THE EAST.

E. BESIDES BEING THE MOST DESTABILIZING FACTOR IN TIME OF PEACE, THE CURRENT GROUND FORCE DISPARITIES WOULD ADD TO THE RISK OF ESCALATION SHOULD CONFLICT OCCUR. REMOVAL OF THAT RISK WOULD BENEFIT ALL PARTICIPANTS.

F. NO AGREEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH NATO'S INTEGRATED DEFENSE SYSTEM OR PREJUDICE THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

G. ON EACH SIDE, THERE IS A SINGLE POWER WHOSE RESOURCES AND MILITARY POTENTIAL, THE BULK OF WHICH LOCATED OUTSIDE CENTRAL EUROPE, PLACED IT IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

H. ANY AGREEMENT MUST TAKE INTO PRACTICAL AND EQUITABLE ACCOUNT ALL OF THESE REALITIES.

I. WESTERN PROPOSALS, WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY AMPLIFIED IN A MANNER THAT ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC EASTERN CONCERNS, DID SO FROM THE OUTSET.

J. ON DEC 16, TO GAIN EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THESE WESTERN PROPOSALS, THE WEST ADDED A ONE-TIME OFFER TO REDUCE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF US NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND TO LIMIT THOSE ARMAMENTS AT THEIR RESIDUAL LEVELS.

K. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE CLEARLY NOT YET GRASPED THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS OFFER.

L. WHEN EVERYTHING IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, IT CANNOT BE DISPUTED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00367 081651Z

THAT THE WEST IS OFFERING AT LEAST AS MUCH AS IT IS ASKING FROM THE EAST.

M. WHILE THE WEST HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT WITHIN REACH, THE EAST HAS SO FAR NOT EXHIBITED A SIMILAR WILLINGNESS TO TACKLE THE REAL PROBLEMS OF SECURITY AND STABILITY IN EUROPE.

N. THROUGH ARITHMETICALLY EQUIVALENT REDUCTIONS, THE EAST SEEKS TO CONTRACTUALIZE THE EXISTING, UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION IN THE AREA.

O. EASTERN REPS HAVE YET TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE WEST CAN ONLY AGREE TO CONTRACTUALIZE THE RELATIONSHIP OF GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA ON THE BASIS OF PARITY.

P. EASTERN PROPOSALS WOULD IMPOSE NATIONAL CEILINGS AND, CONTRARY TO EASTERN CLAIMS, DO NOT SATISFY THE WESTERN REQUIREMENT FOR PHASE NEGOTIATIONS AND REDUCTIONS.

Q. PROGRESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS DEPENDS UPON RECOGNITION BY ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE REAL SOURCES OF INSTABILITY IN THE AREA AND A SHARED WILLINGNESS TO WORK FOR THEIR ELIMINATION.

R. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS CONTINUE TO AWAIT THE POSITIVE AND SERIOUS EASTERN RESPONSE MERITED BY THE WEST'S DEC 16 PROPOSALS.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF UK STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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